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AFTERNOON AND WEEKLY.

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THE RIPLEY VERDICT.

The acquittal of Captain Garnett Ripley at Frankfort may have been a sore disappointment to a few, but it was not a surprise to many. The commonwealth failed to make out a case, and there was not sufficient evidence even to warrant an indictment, and doubtless would never have been one but for the political complexion of the grand jury that found it. The commonwealth failed to show that the accused even knew previous to the murder, any of the alleged conspirators except Gov. Taylor, and had but two conversations with him and those were about organizing a military company.

No apology can be made for Captain Ripley's reprehensible conduct in quoting words alleged to have come from Gov. Taylor and that Governor Taylor was innocent of using. Ripley himself admitted that he heard no such statements from Gov. Taylor, which means that when he made the declarations testified to by ex-Gov. Bradley and Judge Yost, he was either actuated by some ulterior motive and lied outright, or else from some cause was not responsible for what he said, and did not realize the gravity of the imputation he cast on Gov. Taylor and the danger to which he subjected himself. He has been taught a valuable lesson in the worth of silence by the manner in which his idle words were seized upon by the unscrupulous Democratic vampires at Frankfort and perverted to the furtherance of their evil designs.

However, the outcome in the Ripley trial marks another failure in the evident and paramount determination of the Democratic gang at Frankfort to "damn the Republican party in Kentucky and hang Taylor." The trial of Ripley was only part of a plan to arouse a sentiment against Gov. Taylor with a hope of securing his return to Kentucky. If Captain Ripley had been convicted the Democratic gang would have regarded it as only another Republican put out of the way, at least until the case had gone the rounds of all the courts, but as he was acquitted, the Democrats can now assume an air of sublime sanctimony, and benevolently ask, "Who said we Democrats of Kentucky wouldn't give a Republican a fair trial?"

Here is a fair sample of the manner in which the Democratic organs have garbled the evidence in the Ripley case. It is from the Washington Mirror, a paper that with poor effect tries to ape Town Topics, the New York society journal. It says: "If any additional evidence was wanting to establish the fact, in the minds of the people at least, that W. S. Taylor, the fugitive from justice, was one of the chief conspirators in the assassination of Governor Goebel, of Kentucky, it has at last been furnished by former Governor William O. Bradley, who, on Wednesday last, testified that he had been told by a reputable man that Taylor and others proposed assassinating governor Goebel, and that he, Bradley, sent for Taylor and others, telling them that such an outrage must not be permitted." Everyone, even those who read the "doctored" accounts of the trial in the Goebel organs, knows that Gov. Bradley never testified to any such stuff as the above, and that the only thing he ever heard Capt. Ripley say was after the murder of Goebel.

Louisville has settled the servant girl question. A company has been incorporated the object of which is "to furnish to housekeepers of Kentucky trained, honest and reliable domestic servants." Now that the

problem of getting cooks is solved it's up to somebody to devise a plan for keeping them.

Kentucky is to have no exhibit at the Pan-American exposition because the last legislature, in considering a more important matter—namely, the best way to steal a governorship—neglected to make an appropriation. If it were only possible to exhibit the legislature!

GERRYMANDERING

IN KENTUCKY.

In November there is to be elected a new legislature, and upon that legislation will fall the duty of reapportioning the state into congressional districts to conform to the recent census. If the Republicans get a majority in the next legislature, they may get a fair arrangement of the districts, but if the Democrats get a majority they will doubtless gerrymander the state worse than it now is, if such a thing be possible. The Democrats pretend that they are paragons of justice, fairness and virtue despite their Goebel bills and gubernatorial thefts, but the contrary seems more likely, when it is seen how they have succeeded in bunching up the Republican counties into a district or two, and have kept the others for themselves. Democratic methods have deprived the Republicans of five of the eleven districts, if not more. The last census gives Kentucky a population of 2,137,174 making a congressional ratio of 195,197, according to the Louisville Commercial.

The Eleventh district, Republican, is made up of nineteen counties, all Republican, with a total population of 268,417, about 73,000 in excess of the ratio.

The Tenth is next in size, with sixteen mountain counties. The Second, Sixth and Seventh districts each have eight counties; the First, Fourth and Ninth, each have thirteen counties, and the Eighth and Third each have ten.

Jefferson county is the smallest district, territorially, with a population of 322,519. The district having the smallest population is the Eighth, with 143,189 people, or about 52,000 less than the proper ratio. Next comes the Seventh with a population of 151,453, or about 44,000 under the ratio. The First, with 187,883 people; the Second, with 203,316, and the Ninth, with 207,332, and the Tenth, with 189,081, come nearest to the ratio. The Third, with 179,518, and the Sixth with 179,430, come very close together in numbers. After the Eleventh district, the one having the largest population is the Fourth, with 210,340.

The Eleventh was made large in order to take in all the Republican counties that could be bunched together, and the Eighth was made small to keep it Democratic. The Eleventh was too large and the Eighth too small, but they were apportioned that way to maintain a Democratic majority.

The legislative gerrymander is equally as bad, if such a thing be possible. The senatorial ratio is 56,504 under the new census. A few of the unjust apportionments may be cited in the Seventeenth senatorial district, composed of seven large counties, and with an area quite as large as that of the Sixth or Seventh congressional districts, with a population of 129,960, or something more than twice the number entitled to have a senator. The Thirty-third senatorial district, consisting of nine mountain counties, with a population of 103,465, lacking only about 10,000 of being double the ratio, and more than three times the population of the Twenty-third district, composed of Gallatin, Boone and Owen. The Seventeenth senatorial district with a larger population than the aggregate population of the Tenth, Twenty-first and Thirtieth districts. Those three districts, with an aggregate population of 115,466, have three senators, while the 129,960 in the Seventeenth district only have one senator.

There are five senatorial districts with less than 40,000 population—but they are all Democratic districts.

In the house legislative apportionment the injustice is equally as palpable. The ratio for representation is 21,471. Warren, with a population

of 29,970, and Daviess, with a population of 38,667, are each allowed two representatives, but Christian, with 37,962 people, is only allowed one. Bell, Harlan, Leslie and Perry are thrown into one district, and have only one representative, though their aggregate population is 40,108, or four times the population of Anderson, which is allowed one representative. The counties of Breathitt, Lee and Magoffin compose one district, and have only one representative, although their aggregate population is 34,316, or more than the aggregate population of Larue, Meade and Jessamine, each of which has a representative.

The new statute passed by congress regulating the apportionment requires districts to be made up of contiguous territory, and is intended to make gerrymandering more difficult.

All the instances cited above serve to show the injustice and imposition that have been heaped upon the Republicans of Kentucky from time immemorial, and the only hope of the Republicans is to get a majority in the next legislature. The best men must be put out for the various places, and the party must work with unremitting zeal if it expects to head off such highway robbery. It must begin now and keep it up until election.

Minister Wu Ting Fang is preparing a memorial to his government recommending for earnest considerations, the adoption of western methods in China as a relief from present perplexities, and the advancement of his country to a place among the progressive nations of the earth. Wu Ting has had a better opportunity than most of his countrymen to witness the workings of modern methods of finance and economy, but whether or not his unusual procedure will have any effect is extremely doubtful. It looks as though it will require something more drastic than mere memorials and recommendation to convert the Chinese condition of modern civilization. Here's hoping, however, that Wu Ting will not lose his head for his audacity.

In the case of Aguinaldo, as in many other cases, distance appears to have lent enchantment. Instead of being the refined, intelligent patriot he was said to be he proves upon closer inspection to be practically uneducated, signs his name "X," his mark, and is now studying the English language. He is said to be crafty and unreliable as well, and has a rather sinister cast of countenance. The iconoclast usually gets in his work sooner or later and Aguinaldo is the latest victim.

A New York priest offered a reward of \$10,000 for the return to his parents of a kidnapped boy. The youngster was "discovered" all over the country within four days, and if all the stray boys had been delivered to him, no orphan asylum in the country would have been big enough to hold them. The clairvoyants, mountebanks and fakirs finally became so annoying the priest was finally compelled to withdraw the offer in order to have time for the performance of his sacred duties.

A number of intellectual cranks and anti-expansion newspapers are engaged in an amusing controversy over the ethical phases of Aguinaldo's capture. Some contend that a gentleman and a soldier wouldn't have dared, and others declare that he would have dared. But just the same Aguinaldo is in a cage and Gen. Funston has had no cause to regret the part he played in the little affair.

One of the Blue Grass papers remarks: Ollie James, the roaring and mighty atmospheric phenomenon of Crittenden county, has announced his candidacy for congress from the First district, and has also shed an hallucination or two to the effect that he is "confident of winning."

Despite the interviews, and "reliable reports," pro and con, Gov. Durbin, of Indiana, states that until requisition papers for Gov. W. S. Taylor are laid on his desk he will not decide what to do.

It is reported that Former Governor W. O. Bradley will be a candidate for United States senator.

Prof. Bayle, the "it" who defied the Republicans and made a disgusting equine extremity of himself down in Ballard county, was defeated for county school superintendent, by a woman. The general public will give the fair winner all the credit that is due her, and warmly congratulate her over her victory, but it must be observed that any one who couldn't beat such a blabbering idiot as "professor" ought to stop running. He runs for office like he writes English. He ought to go to school awhile before he undertakes to teach one and if he ever becomes competent to teach a country school he ought to stick to it, for he can never make a success running for office. If his brains were petrified they wouldn't rattle in a sardine box.

If Aguinaldo knew all the mean things that have been said and written about him he probably would have no dread of being "misrepresented." In truth, misrepresentation might help his reputation.

An ex-preacher of Washington, Ind., has seed a saloon keeper for \$5,000 for selling him whiskey. It must have been a pretty bad brand.

If bank officials were only thoughtful enough to commit suicide beforehand, many reputations and considerable cash would be saved.

If enough water comes along Paducah may get a good spring cleaning.

There is talk of entering Aguinaldo in the next derby.

MONOPOLY IN COAL.

Birmingham, Ala., April 23.—J. B. Pace, of Richmond, Va., president of the Virginia and Alabama Coal company, which operates extensive mines in Walker county, this state, has called a meeting of the stockholders of that company to be held in Birmingham, April 30. While the purpose of the meeting has not been publicly stated it is well understood to be for the consideration of a proposition made to the Virginia and Alabama company by the Monongahela Coal company, of Pittsburgh, for the purpose of the former's properties. The Monongahela company does a large coal business in the southwest on the Mississippi river, floating its product down that stream in barges. Within the past two or three years the Walker county operators under the leadership of the Virginia and Alabama Coal company have made large

inroads into the trade of the Pittsburg people in the southwest. As was published some time ago the Pittsburg parties are now figuring on buying out the larger Walker county concerns with a view it is presumed to diverting the latter's product to other markets than those which Pittsburg coal enters. It was stated some weeks ago that the deal had been closed, but this has proven erroneous. It is said, however, that the Monongahela company made a very favorable offer for the purchase of the Virginia and Alabama company's properties and that the stockholders at their meeting here on the 30th will sell and finally close up the deal. A stipulation in the transaction will be that the Walker county mines are not to be closed down, but no objection will be entered to the diversion of their product to other markets. After the Virginia and Alabama deal goes through, as it is expected to do, the Pittsburg people it is believed will then proceed to buy up several smaller companies in Walker county which have had a finger in the Mississippi river trade. In fact negotiations are now pending to this end, but nothing final, it is understood, will be done until after the trade for the Virginia and Alabama company's properties is finally closed.

INSURGENT SPIRIT SMASHED.

Washington, April 23.—In the opinion of officers on duty in the Philippines, Gen. MacArthur's actions in deporting insurgent leaders to Guam had the effect of greatly discouraging their followers and has done even more toward breaking up the insurrection than the vigorous military operations which have been carried on since the beginning of the dry season. In a letter received here today the commander of one of the naval vessels in the Philippine waters says:

"Great numbers are coming in and taking the oath. It really looks as though the transporting of the head devils to Guam has nearly smashed the insurgent spirit. That move, I don't know who thought of it, has done more to stop hostilities than all the killing since the war started. The people dearly love their homes and while they don't mind captivity near home and do not fear death especially, death in exile works wonders as a spirit breaker. Following that order about 50,000 in one island came in and took the oath."

Right Rev. William Stubbs, Bishop of Oxford, died in England.

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